

Chief, Geographic Research

22 March 1960

Chief, Geography Division

Comments on ORR Contribution to NIE 100-2-60

1. Attached are comments by the Far East Branch on the ORR Contribution to NIE 100-2-60 (EP 60-10, Economic Factors Bearing on Sino-Indian Relations) prepared by the Economic Research Area. I recommend that they be passed to Chief, Economic Area, for his information.

2. In contemplating the referenced paper, I am struck by the fact that our contributions to NIE's, which stand as formal ORR statements, are actually put together by the contributing Area as its independent views. There is no established policy or procedure by which the papers are made known to other elements of ORR prior to dissemination. I wonder whether this does not risk the assurance of quality control that the Office should have in NIE contributions. There is no question but that the GRA, as a check-out point, can have very little to contribute to most elements of ERA papers of this type. Similarly the ERA does not have competence in most subjects treated by the GRA in its, fewer, contributions. However, in occasional instances such as the ERA contribution to NIE 100-2-60 and possibly the past GRA contribution to NIE 55-59, The Outlook for Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim, some useful changes might have developed from an informal check-out. If you concur in it, I suggest that this thought be taken up with Ch/E at the time the attached comments are passed to him.

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